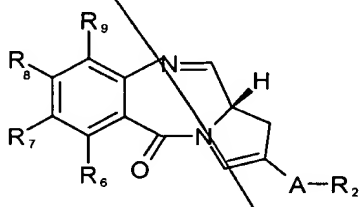
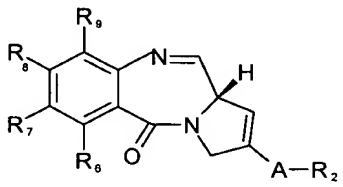
Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Twice amended.) A pyrrolobenzodiazepine compound of the formula **Ia** or **Ib**:



(Ia)



(Ib)

wherein:

A is CH_2, or a single bond;

R_2 is selected from: R, OH, OR, CO_2H, CO_2R, COH, COR, SO_2R, CN, CH_2OR or $CH=CR^AR^B$, where R^A and R^B are independently selected from H, R^C, COR^C, $CONH_2$ $CONHR^C$, $CONR^C_2$, cyano or phosphonate, where R^C is an unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

R_6, R_7 and R_9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me_3Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or one or more carbonyl groups or one or more ether or thioether groups, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups;

and R_8 is selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me_3Sn, where R is as defined above or where the compound is a dimer with each monomer being the same or different and being of formula **Ia** or **Ib**, where the R_8 groups of the monomers form together a bridge having the formula -X-R^1-X- linking the monomers, where R^1 is an alkylene chain containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, which chain may be interrupted by one or more hetero-atoms and/or aromatic rings and may contain one or more carbon-carbon double or

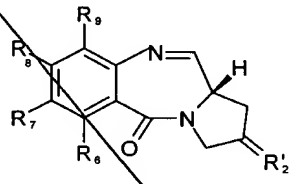
triple bonds, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or N; or R_7 and R_8 together form a group -O-$(CH_2)_p$-O-, where p is 1 or 2; with the proviso that when A is a single bond, then R_2 is not $CH=CR^AR^B$, where R^A and R^B are independently selected from H, R^C, COR^C, $CONH_2$, $CONHR^C$, $CONR^C{}_2$, cyano or phosphonate, where R^C is an unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

6. (Twice amended.) A compound according to claim 1, wherein A is a single bond, and R_2 is an aryl group, or an alkyl or alkaryl group which contains at least one double bond which forms part of a conjugated system with a double bond of the pyrrolobenzodiazepine compound C-ring.

Please amend claim 13 as follows:

13. (Twice amended.) A compound of formula **II**:



(II)

wherein:

R'_2 is O;

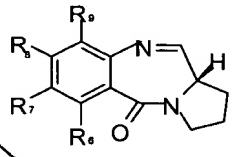
R_6, R_7 and R_9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me_3Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or one or more carbonyl groups or one or more ether or thioether groups, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups;

and where the compound is a dimer with each monomer being the same or different and being of formula **II**, where the R_8 groups of the monomers form together a bridge having the formula -X-R^1-X- linking the monomers, where R^1 is an alkylene chain containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, which chain may be interrupted by one or more hetero-atoms and/or aromatic rings and may contain one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or N.

Please amend claim 20 as follows:

20. (Twice amended.) A compound of the formula **III**:



(III)

wherein:

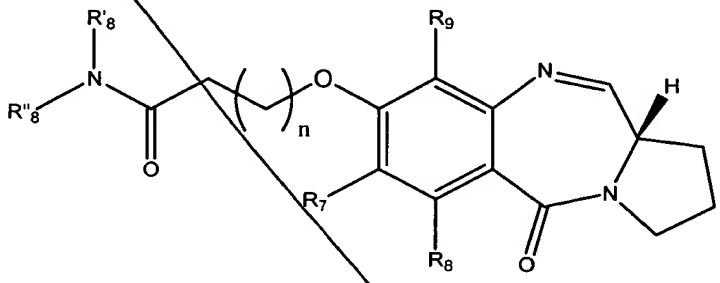
R_6, R_7 and R_9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me_3Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or one or more carbonyl groups, or one or more ether or thioether groups, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups;

and R_8 is amino.

Please amend claim 29 as follows:

29. (Once amended.) A compound of formula **IV**:



(IV)

wherein:

R_6, R_7 and R_9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me_3Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or one or more carbonyl groups, or one or more ether or thioether groups, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups;

R_8' and R_8'' are either independently selected from H, R or together form a cyclic amine; and

n is from 1 to 7.

Please amend claim 38 as follows:

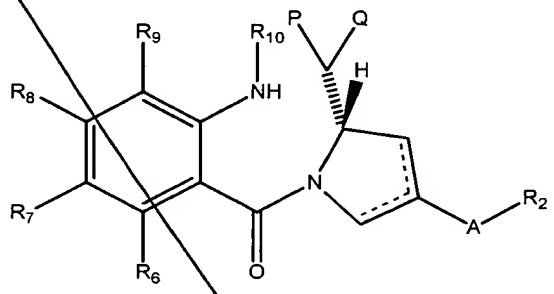
38. (Twice amended.) A method of treating cancer comprising administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, claim 13, claim 20 or claim 50 to a patient in need of such treatment wherein the cancer is selected from lung cancer, colon cancer, CNS cancer, melanoma, renal cancer, breast cancer and ovarian cancer.

Please amend claim 40 as follows:

40. (Twice amended.) A method of treating cancer comprising administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 29 to a patient in need of such treatment wherein the cancer is selected from lung cancer, colon cancer, CNS cancer, melanoma, renal cancer and ovarian cancer.

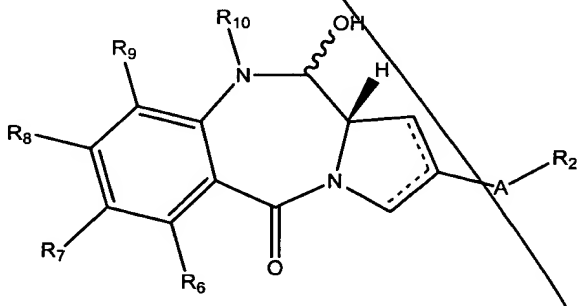
Please amend claim 42 as follows:

42. (Once amended.) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 1 comprising cyclizing a compound of formula



wherein A, R_2, R_6, R_7, R_8 and R_9 are as defined in claim 1, R_{10} is a nitrogen protecting group and CPQ is a masked aldehyde;

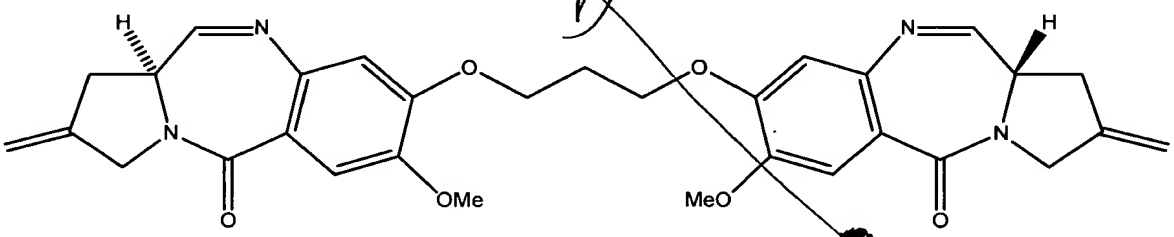
to a compound of formula



wherein A, R_2, R_6, R_7, R_8, R_9 and R_{10} are as defined above and converting the above compound to a compound according to claim 1.

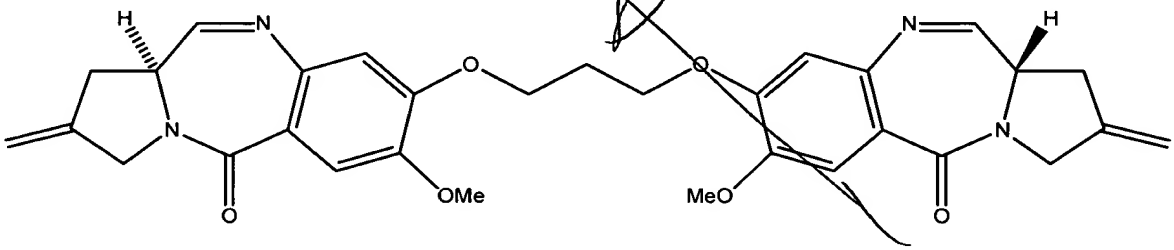
Please amend claim 43 as follows:

43. (Twice amended.) A method of treating a cisplatin-refractory disease comprising administering an effective amount to a patient in need of such treatment of a compound of formula



Please amend claim 44 as follows:

44. (Twice amended.) A method of inhibiting the growth of cisplatin-refractory cells which method comprises treating said cells with a compound of formula



Please amend claim 46 as follows:

46. (Once amended.) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Please amend claim 47 as follows:

47. (Once amended.) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 13 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Please amend claim 48 as follows:

48. (Once amended.) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 20 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Please amend claim 49 as follows:

49. (Once amended.) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 29 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Please add the following claims:

56. (New) A compound according to claim 1 wherein

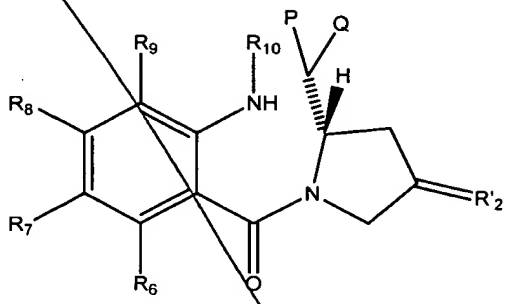
A is a single bond;

R_2 is 4-methoxyphenyl;

R_6 and R_9 are H, and

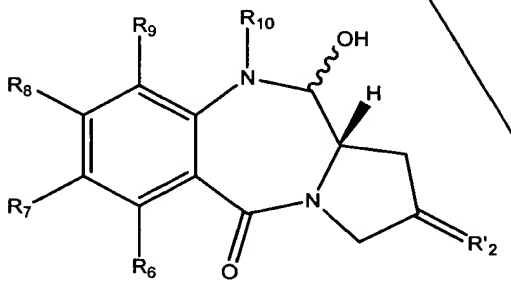
R_7 and R_8 are methoxy.

57. (New.) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 13 comprising cyclizing a compound of formula



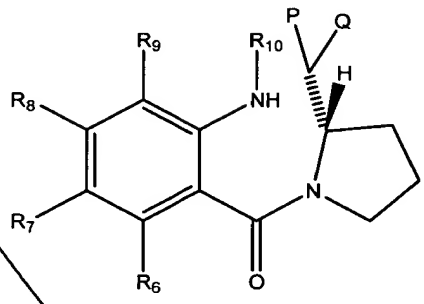
wherein R'_2, R_6, R_7, R_8 and R_9 are as defined in claim 13, R_{10} is a nitrogen protecting group and CPQ is a masked aldehyde;

to a compound of formula



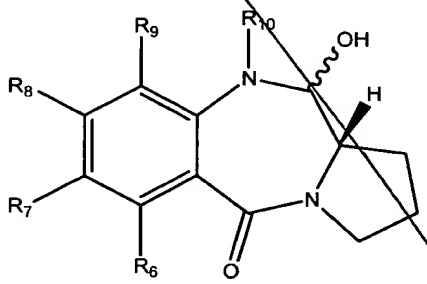
wherein R'_2, R_6, R_7, R_8, R_9 and R_{10} are as defined above, and converting the above compound to a compound according to claim 13.

58. (New.) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 20 comprising cyclizing a compound of formula



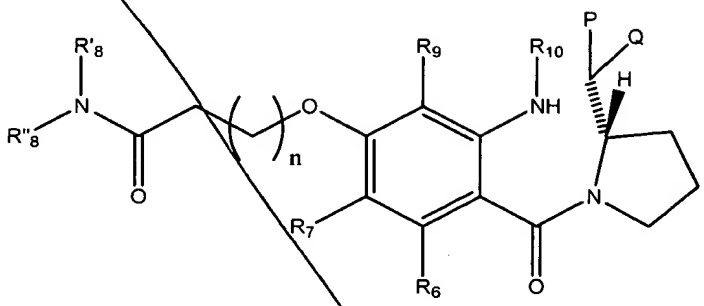
wherein R_6, R_7, R_8, and R_9 are as defined in claim 20, R_{10} is a nitrogen protecting group and CPQ is a masked aldehyde;

to a compound of formula



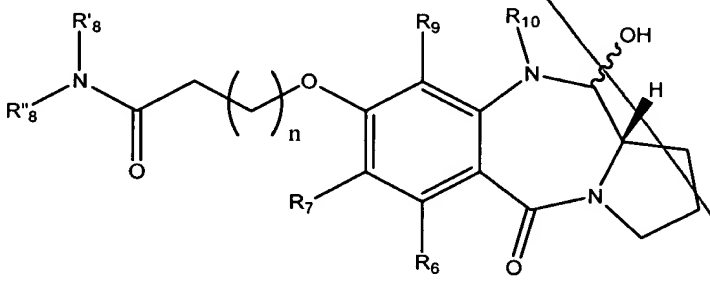
wherein R_6, R_7, R_8, R_9 and R_{10} are as defined above, and converting the above compound to a compound according to claim 20.

59. (New.) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 29 comprising cyclizing a compound of formula



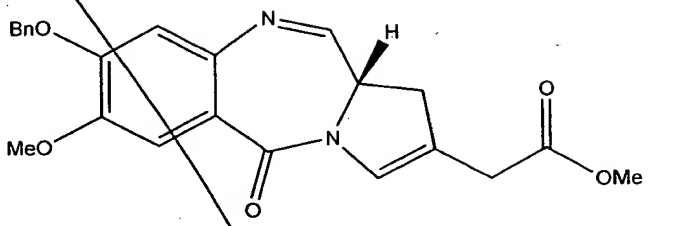
wherein R_6, R_7, R_8', R_8'', and R_9 are as defined in claim 29, R_{10} is a nitrogen protecting group and CPQ is a masked aldehyde;

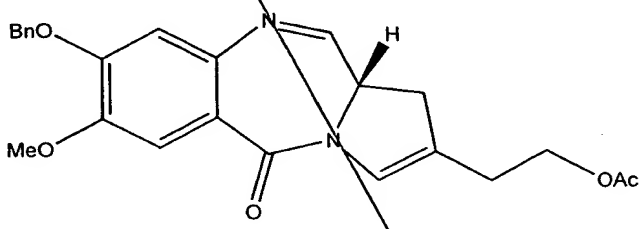
to a compound of formula

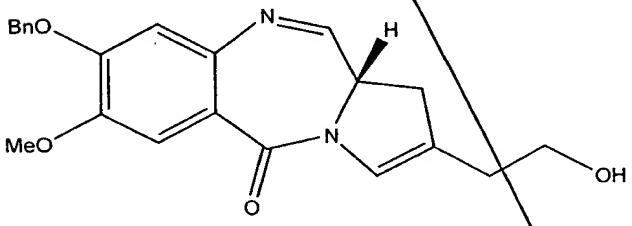


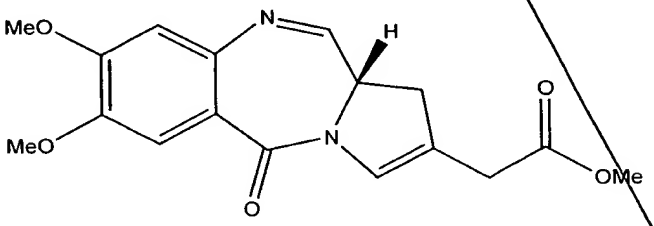
wherein R_6, R_7, R_8', R_8'', R_9 and R_{10} are as defined above, and converting the above compound to a compound according to claim 29.

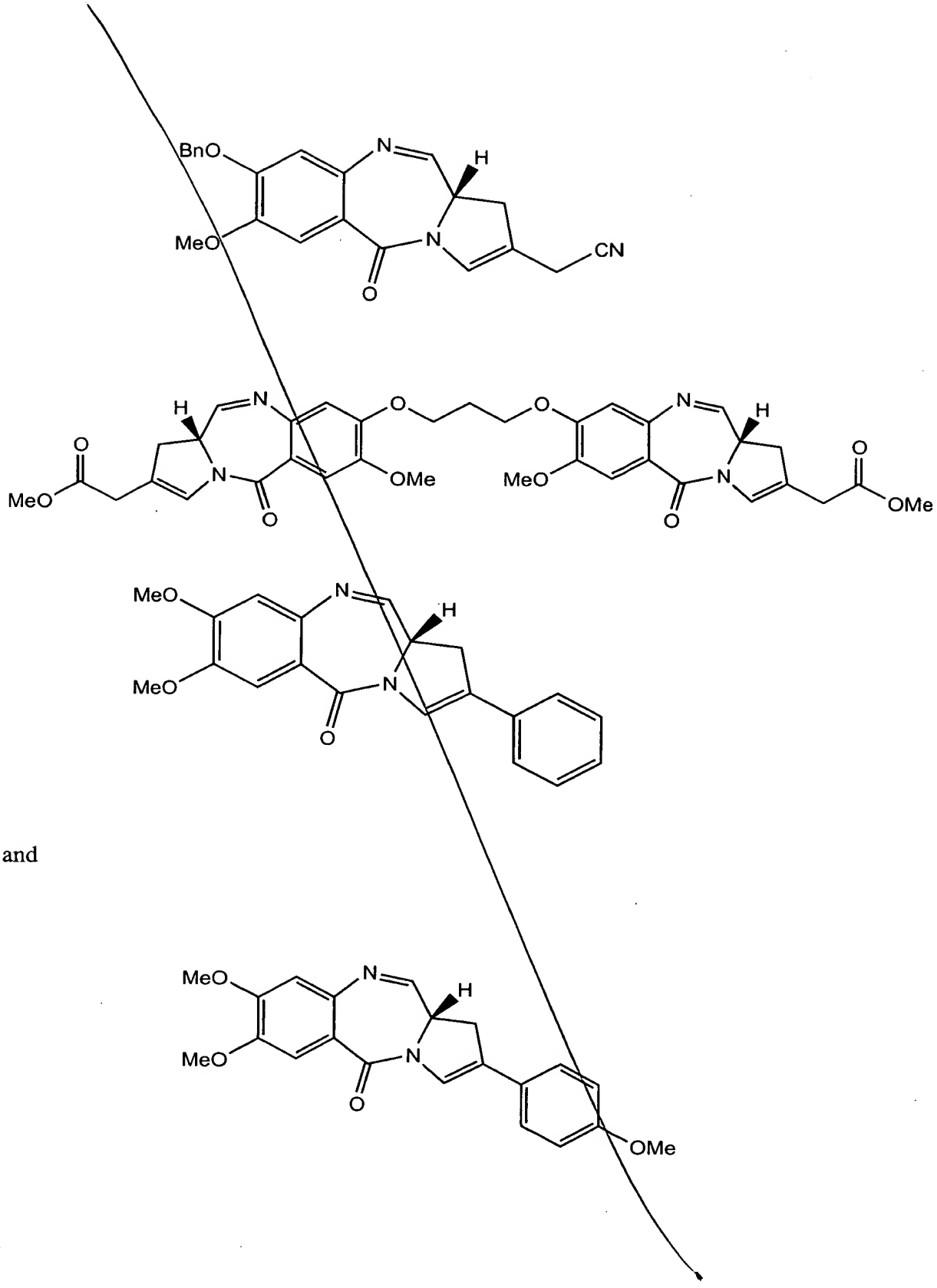
60. (New.) The method of claim 38 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of





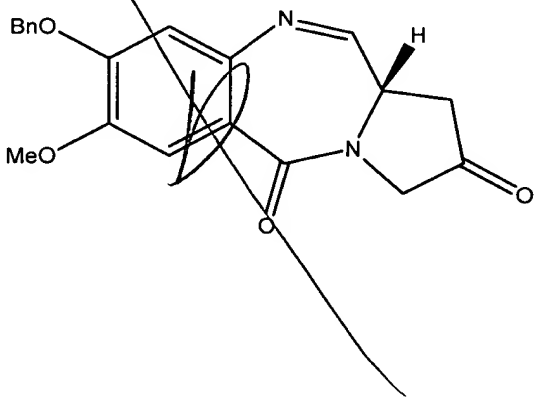




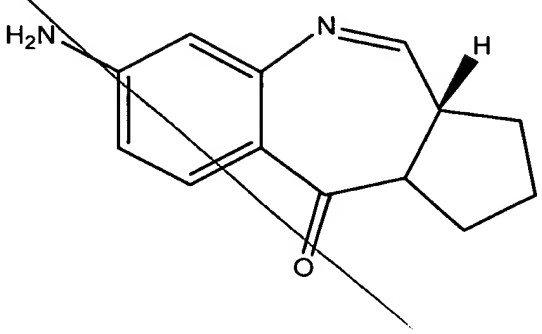


and

61. (New.) The method of claim 38 wherein the compound is



62. (New.) The method of claim 38 wherein the compound is



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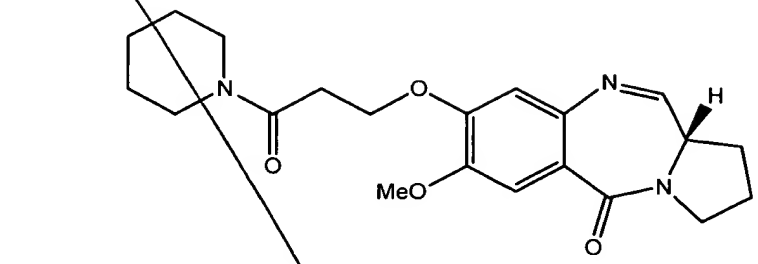
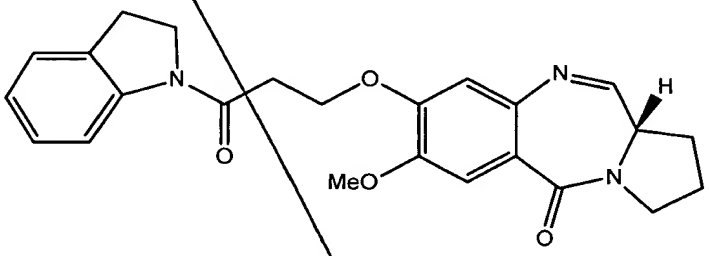
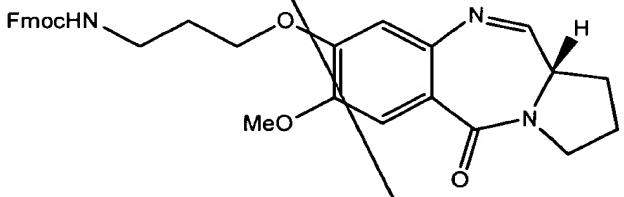
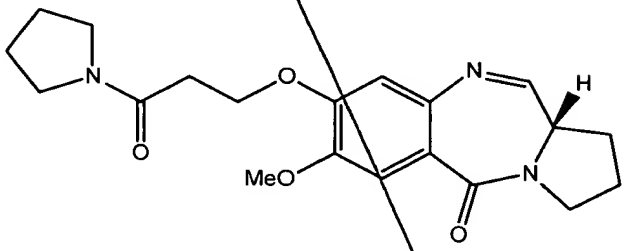
63. (New.) The method of claim 40 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of

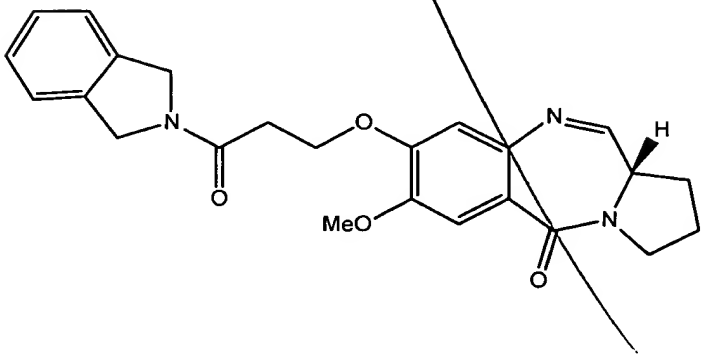




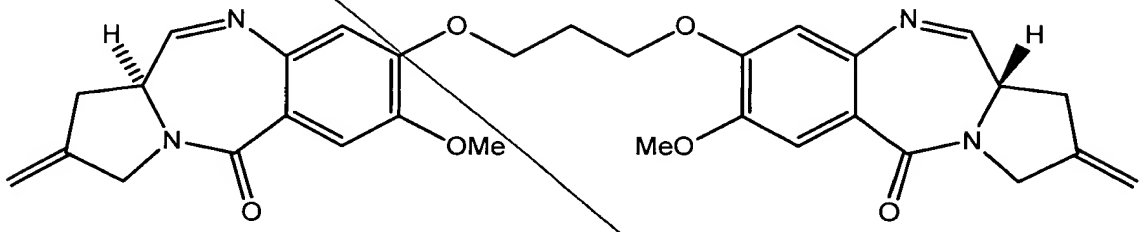




and



64. (New.) The method of claim 38 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of



and